

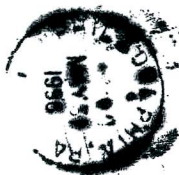
FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.  
c/o 641 Kismet Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115-1114

A Publication of

# The Blurb



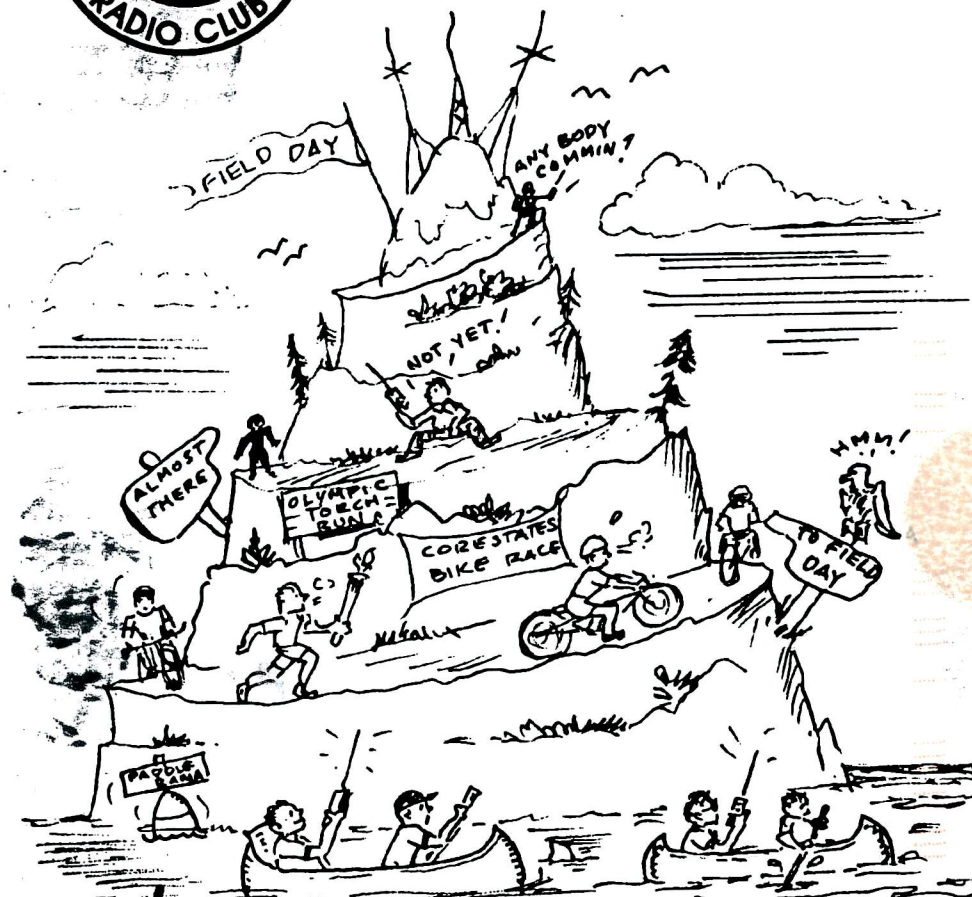
JACK HARING  
VIRGINIA HARING - W3IIM  
2113 Edgehill Drive  
Furlong PA 18925-1101

W3IIM  
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# The Blurb

June 1996



## Philmont in June is Bustin' out all over!

Our 47th year



## VOLUME 46

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. *Blurp* subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets sometime after 7:30 p.m. on the first non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street, or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!** Amateur Radio License Examinations are held on the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 p.m.—*SHARP!*

## CLUB INFORMATION

24-Hour Information Number at **W3TKQ: (215) 448-1139**  
 Repeater frequencies: 147.03 MHz (Roxboro input requires no PL, but outputs 91.5 Hz.)  
 The following PLs are required for satellite receiver access:  
**Bucks County** 131.8 Hz—**Center City** 103.5 Hz—**Lansdale** 114.8 Hz  
 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)  
 Simplex frequency: 147.51 MHz  
**W3TKQ** packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz—E-mail: w3tkq@fi.edu  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

## STATIONS

**W3QV** - 147.03 MHz. Repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee **W3BBB**  
**W3TKQ** - The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee **WU3I**  
 The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all amateurs (with license) to operate it.

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** **WU3I**, Steve Hoch, 4638 Oakland Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124 (215) 535-8061  
 shoch@comcat.com—wu3i@w3tkq.#sepa.pa.usa.noam  
**1st VICE PRESIDENT:** **N3FVI**, Bill Popovic, 343 Lemonte Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (215) 487-9472  
 71441.740@compuserve.com  
**2nd VICE PRESIDENT:** **KA4LIF**, Thom Scott, 7034 Gillespie Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135 (215) 331-1118  
 scott.tom@forum.va.gov—ka4lif@ke3cz.#sepa.pa.usa.noam  
**SECRETARY:** **AA3CH**, Russ Stafford, RD-1 Box 426, New Castle, DE 19720 (610) 497-4590  
 russ@hdj.com—aa3ch@aa3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam  
**TREASURER:** **KB3IV**, Ed Masarsky, 15 Poe Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095 (215) 572-5238

## DIRECTORS

**AA3EP** (97); **K3GNM** (97); **W3BBB** (96); **W3RM** (96); **N3GMH** (A); **K3KUD** (A); **W3QZO** (A)

## COMMITTEES

Archives:	<b>W3IIN</b>	Emerg. Coord.:	<b>W3BBB</b>	Refreshments:	<b>N3FVI</b>
Audit:		Field Day:	<b>N3IEI</b>	Repeater:	<b>W3BBB</b>
<i>Blurp</i> Folding:	<b>WB3KOH&amp;J</b>	Membership:	<b>KA4LIF</b>	Special Events:	<b>AA3EP</b>
Budget:	<b>K3KUD</b>	Net Control:	<b>KB3IV</b>	VE Program:	<b>ND3Q</b>
Directory:	<b>WB3KOJ</b>	Program:	<b>N3FVI</b>	TVI:	<b>W3VVS</b>
Education:	<b>AA3CH</b>	Publicity:	<b>N3IEI</b>	<b>W3TKQ:</b>	<b>KB3IV</b>
				Welcome:	

## Blurp STAFF

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 charing@chmc.mhs.compuserve.com

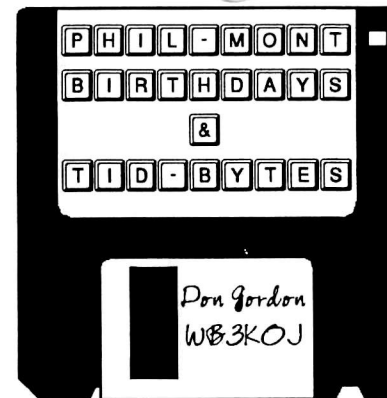
Artist: **N3QIE** Labels: **WB3KOJ** Publisher: **W3IIN**  
**DEADLINE:** To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the Board of Directors' Meeting!

## NET SCHEDULE

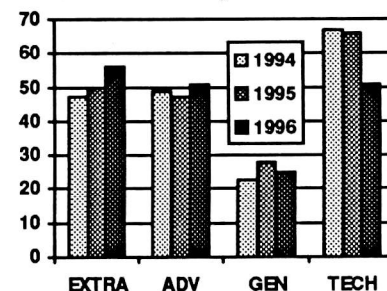
SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET (ON SUMMER HIATUS)
LAST WED	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	W3TKQ OPERATORS' NET

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 03 Sandy Lewis (XYL N3DGU)  
Stephie Weigand - N3POJ  
Bob Whelan - KB2GAJ
  - 04 Dick Moll - W3RM  
Sue Sadwin - N2CYA
  - 05 Bud Heilbron - W3ISN
  - 06 Chuck Hillman - K3QLY
  - 09 Mike McLaughlin - WB3JHX
  - 10 Thomas Maresca (OM K3YPH)
  - 11 Wally Newell - K3JJO  
Marc Zaharchuk - WA3CRM
  - 12 Miriam Elmaleh - K3UJI (XYL K3HIJ)
  - 13 Scott O'Donnell - N3SQA
  - 14 Larry Potts - N2MAW
  - 15 Joel Kleinguenther - KA3SWU
  - 19 Marie Rhoads (XYL ND3Q)
  - 21 Jim Rorick - N3GEN
  - 23 Temple Rykaczewski (XYL W3ALM\*)
  - 24 Anthony Vece - N3PWT
  - 28 Betsy Reichert - N3EBE
  - 30 David Bonk - N3RUE  
Alex Conshick - WB3ERB  
Mary Kane (XYL N3OOL)  
Mike Lenczynski - KA3EIP
- \*Indicates new member 1995



PMRC Members by License Class



## MEMBERSHIP STATS

158 Fully paid  
 22 Family  
 3 Honorary  
 2 Pending

## REMINDER

If you want your packet and/or E-Mail address listed in the next PMRC Directory, send them to me at: wb3koj@voicenet.com or wb3koj@aa3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

## HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...contact Ed Masarsky, KB3IV, for details.

**"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"**—for the courtesy 🚗!

# Packet Without a TNC

"Back-Door Packet"

Russ Stafford, AA3CH

Have you ever wondered how guys like WB3KOJ, Don, get into packet on the ham radio bands when you know he does not have a TNC? It's simple as well as easy. It's called "back-door" packet radio.

All you need is your computer with a modem hooked to a phone line. I bet you're starting to get the picture! There is a phone number 610-497-4691 that you call with your modem, 1200-28.8 bps will work, and it will ask you the following questions:

1. Your call
2. Your name
3. QTH
4. Home BBS (where you would like your packet mail sent)
5. Zip code

At this point you will be "read only."

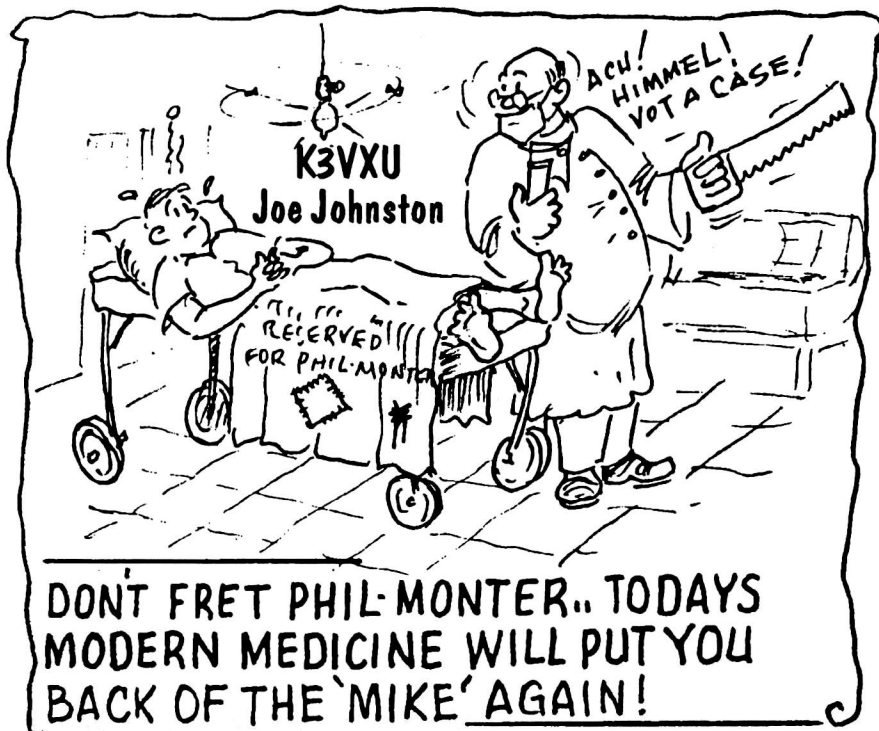
That means you can list messages like this: Type LB. This will list bulletins that you would like to read. Pick out the message number (on the left hand side) and type: R 1234, or Read message number 1234, hit enter. The system will prompt you each step of the way. A big reminder, this is ham radio and your message does go out over the air, so, keep anything you send in good taste.

To get set-up to send messages, leave me a message on the BBS,

spaa3ch@aa3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam.

Leave me your call and the password you would like to use, or you may call me by phone 610-497-4590. If you would like a full list of commands, send a SASE to: Metro-Link Box 426 New Castle, De 19720

The system also gives you free Internet access via the gateway. You may also request commands for the gateway at the same address. The back-door packet is open to ham operators only. ☺



# The PREZ SEZ

Steve Hoch, WU3I



As of this writing [5/11] Field Day, Paddlerama and the Olympic Torch Run have been announced for the month of June, and no one has volunteered.

Chris, N3IEI and I have been writing articles for two months, and the Torch Run has been a subject of conversation for the last month. Russ, AA3CH is the area coordinator for the Torch Run; the projected date is June 18.

PLEASE contact the coordinators soon and spend some time helping out.

Two days ago I had the sad duty to bid farewell to a fine Phil-Monter and a great ham, W3AA Harold Fox passed on Tuesday May 7, 1996. Hal was a ham for 60 years and was a well known fellow on the 20 meter

band. He and Marian always entertained any Phil-Mont members who strayed near their home in Florida (Joann & me for the last two winters). I had the pleasure of visiting Hal and Marian in February, and was glad I had the chance to say good-bye.

A number of us were lucky to be at the Mid-Month meeting at Place One in Plymouth Meeting last Summer for Hal's 77th birthday celebration. Hal received a visit from a belly dancer, and learned some new steps courtesy of some very quick Phil-Mont members (see last October's *Blurb*). Well... if there isn't a station there now, between Jake and Hal, there will be soon!

Don't just sit there—VOLUNTEER FOR A SPECIAL EVENT THIS MONTH! ☺

## General Meeting Program

Is Unknown at Press Time [5/26].  
Stay Tuned to the Sunday Morning  
Nets for Last-Minute News.

## UPCOMING

- June 5**      **General Meeting**
- June 6**      License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- June 19**     Directors' Meeting at  
W3BBB  
~~~~~
- July 3**      **General Meeting**
- July 11**     License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- July 17**     Directors' Meeting at  
KA4LIF's

## HAMFESTS

- July 14**      KIMBERTON, PA  
Mid-Atlantic ARC
- July 28**      TIMONIUM, MD  
BRATS
- Aug 4**        EASTON, PA  
Delaware-Lehigh ARC  
(Date Change)
- Aug 17-18**    YORK, PA
- Oct 20**       SELLERSVILLE  
RF Hill ARC

## Federal Communications Commission

1270 Fairfield Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>

## License Information

800-322-1117—M-F 0800-1630

## Fax-On-Demand

202-418-0177

## V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1996 test fee is \$6.05; there is no charge for a Novice test.

## • The FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q  
(215) 879-0505 day, (215) 448-1139 24-hours

## • BELLMAWR, NJ

Monthly, 3rd Thursday—Bill Helmatag  
(609) 933-1500

## • BRYN MAWR

Irregularly—Bob Lees  
(215) 265-6032

## • LEVITTOWN

Monthly, 1st Saturday—George LeNoir, WR3B  
(215) 943-4886

## • LINWOOD, PA—(Commercial &amp; Amateur Exams.)

Russ Stafford, AA3CH  
(610) 358-2311

## • MORRISVILLE

Monthly, 3rd Thursday—Dave Munson, NM3K  
(215) 788-7515

## • POTTSTOWN

Monthly, 1st Monday—Warren Erdman K3ZXQ  
(215) 679-5764

## • TELFORD

Monthly, 3rd Monday—Warren Erdman K3ZXQ  
(215) 679-5764

## • UNIVERSITY OF PA

Monthly, Last Saturday—Jeff DePolo  
(215) 898-8538 shack, (215) 337-7383 home

## • WARMINSTER

Monthly, Last Wed.—Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ  
(215) 343-3494

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP (610) 323-1050

- June 9**      CoreStates Bike Race
- June 18**     Olympic Torch Run
- June 22-23**   Paddlerama
- Sept 28-29**   MS-150 City to Shore to City
- Oct (tba)**    Arthritis Bike Tour
- Dec 1**        Brian's Run

## YOU MIGHT BE A HAM...

- If you window shop at Radio Shack
- If you introduce your wife as "mylady@home.wife"
- If you want an 8X CD-ROM for Christmas
- If the only jokes you receive are through e-mail
- If you use a CAD package to design your son's Pine Wood Derby car
- If you have used coat hangers and duct tape for something other than hanging coats and taping ducts
- If, at Christmas, it goes without saying that you will be the one to find the burnt-out bulb in the string
- If your ideal evening consists of fast-forwarding through the latest sci-fi movie looking for technical inaccuracies
- If you carry on a one-hour debate over the expected results of a test that actually takes five minutes to run
- If you have modified your can opener to be microprocessor driven
- If you know the direction the water swirls when you flush
- If you have ever taken the back off your TV just to see what's inside
- If a team of you and your coworkers have set out to modify the antenna on the radio in your work area for better reception
- If you thought the concoction ET used to phone home was stupid
- If you have never backed-up your hard drive
- If you have ever saved the power cord from a broken appliance
- If you have ever purchased an electronic appliance "as-is"
- If you see a good design and still have to change it
- If the salespeople at Circuit City can't answer any of your questions
- If you still own a slide rule, and you know how to work it
- If you have more toys than your kids
- If you have a habit of destroying things in order to see how they work
- If the microphone at a meeting doesn't work, and you rush up to fix it.
- If you can remember 7 computer passwords but not your anniversary
- If you have ever owned a calculator without an equal key
- If you did the sound system for your senior prom
- If your girlfriend says the way you dress is no reflection on her
- If your wristwatch has more buttons than a telephone
- If you have more friends on the Internet than in real life
- If you thought the real heroes of "Apollo 13" were the mission controllers
- If you think your computer looks better without the cover
- If your wife hasn't the foggiest idea what you do at work
- If you know what "http://" stands for
- If you've ever tried to repair a \$5 radio
- If your favorite part of the 6 o'clock news is comparing their latest satellite weather picture with yours
- If your three year old son asks why the sky is blue and you try to explain atmospheric absorption theory

WB3KOJ

## WSYI REPORT

Did you see the copyrighted story in last week's New York Times concerning ham radio? It was written by an Edward Rothstein who is not shown in the FCC's database as a licensed amateur. The article's basic premise is that:

**"Reports of the computer-assisted death of ham radio may be greatly exaggerated."**

The well-written feature length article appears in the Technology Connections section of the March 18th financial section. Rothstein correctly points out that ham operators are increasingly communicating via the Internet's World Wide Web, "No code. No radio. No schematics. [and] No licenses."

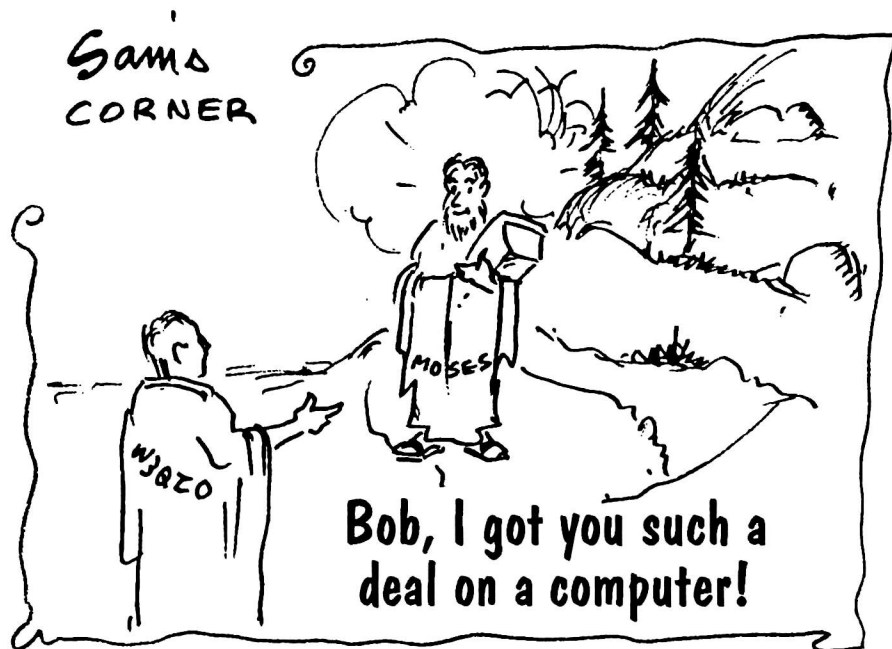
"...hams on the Net are arguing over what the new technology has done to their world." Some amateurs welcome it as an "evolutionary force" while others clearly do not. "What use is Morse code, and what purpose do radio frequencies serve when E-

mail and chat rooms now attract even ham-radio operators?"

For one thing, Rothstein says, ham operators are "...linking their PCs to their radios to transmit digital [packet radio] data without the cost of telephone lines or Internet providers."

"But the deepest appeal of ham radio may be immune to the Internet challenge. Of what use is a PC and the Internet when phone lines are down or war breaks out or a storm knocks out power? ...The Internet is being used by ham-radio operators not as a substitute for ham radio, but as a method of talking about it."

Rothstein adds "in 1991, in an effort to increase interest in ham radio, there was an easing of licensing requirements: it is now possible to get a beginning license without any knowledge of Morse code." He quotes ARRL VP Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF as saying he "...believes that by 1999, the code may be eliminated as a requirement even for the most advanced level." ☺



## MINUTES

### MAY GENERAL MEETING

*Russ Stafford, AA3CH, Secretary*



**M**ay 1, 1996 Our 556<sup>th</sup> General Meeting was opened promptly [?] at 19:45 by President WU3I, Steve. After some moving around from the 5th floor, a short welcome to the 7 visitors. The discussion turned to upcoming events.

Field Day - Chris still has almost no one signed up, please contact Chris N3IEI.

Paddlerama - Steve reported that he has very few signed up and needs help.

The Torch - I myself have two hams signed up for this event which takes 70 hams. See me, it's coming through on June 18th.

**HEY GUYS IS THIS A PATTERN?!**  
If some of you PHIL-MONSTERS would get off your collective ASSES and put a little something back into the hobby instead of always taking, we could get a lot of this stuff properly staffed. Charlie AA3EP begs all the time for help and Saturday the 4th of May there were only 3 hams at the Center City Bike Tour and 5 at Montgomery County, Geez Guys!

If each and every one of us sign up to do only one event, (not a fake thing like Core-States) we would have more hams than needed. Or are you all just going to sit back 'til we get all the frequencies taken away? Because we can't justify why we have them. If you don't think they will take away frequencies, just remember what happened to the 11 meter, 5 meter, and the lower half of 220! How about the top half of the two meter band, it's now only a ham band in North America. The L.E.O. folk are eyeing it up and they have Big Money. So how would you justify having or keeping it? To sit and rag chew, I think not. So get out in

the sun to justify this hobby or we will soon have nothing. By the way, a big THANK YOU to those of you who did take time out of their busy schedules to do their part. We need to get this club on the move and move now!

Now back to the minutes. . .

The Treasurer, KB3IV, Ed, reported the start balance at \$2,308.24, income of \$289.00, expenses \$803.06, and the balance \$1,794.18. Ed also reported on net control that he needs two more two-meter net controls.

Membership, KA4LIF - Tom. No new members this month.

Special Events, AA3EP - Charlie, begged for HELP on the upcoming events and got no response, and two who were signed up now can't make it. Gee it looks like Icom Day took precedence, or as Charlie calls it "I've got to worm my dog and can't be there." Next big event is THE MS CITY-TO-SHORE, the old MS-150. This is a two-day event and will need about 130 hams. This is a good event if you only do one a year! If you can help both days, or even just for an hour, this is it. Your help is needed!

W3TKQ Report - WU3I - Steve. The neat picture of Ben Franklin that was on the front of QST awhile back will be blown up and put into the great rotor circle map over the console, it should look great.

Lastly, the A.R.R.L. will start charging us for postage for the handouts that we give at W3TKQ.

Meeting was closed at 20:02 and turned over to our speaker on Emergency Management. ☺

## MINUTES

Russ Stafford, AA3CH, Secretary

## MAY DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 15, 1996 our Mid-Month Meeting was opened promptly at 20:00 hours, more or less, by our club Treasurer KB3IV, Ed who reported a starting balance of \$1,794.81, income \$117.00, expenses of \$40.00 with a new balance of \$1,871.18. Ed also reported of our newest net control WA3NSP - Bill. A discussion of the CW code net and the need for more CW net controls.

Membership - Although he was on his way to Dayton, a big THANK YOU from the Board to Tom - KA4LIF who stepped in to take over the membership duties. Ed then read off the new applications for membership which will be here in this month's *Blurb*. They are N3VYA - Ben, N3XEK - Isao, and last but not least N3XKW - Stefanie.

Discussions were held on the following: The young ham's dues. More young ham's programs at the general meeting. Possible young ham to rep on the board. What direction the club is going to take. Elmer for the young hams.

Repeater W3BBB - Jim, reported on the Area Repeater Coordination Committee (ARCC). After a discussion, Phil-Mont has paid the \$50 to join for one year. Jim and

crew are working on the off-site receivers (Delaware County). No word on the repeater move as of yet because we are waiting for final written agreement from the City. The repeater will be on macro 5 from 24:00 through 05:00. If you have any questions contact Jim.

W3RM - Dick, informed us that the W5YI newsletter reported that the 1st gate for vanity calls will be May 31st.

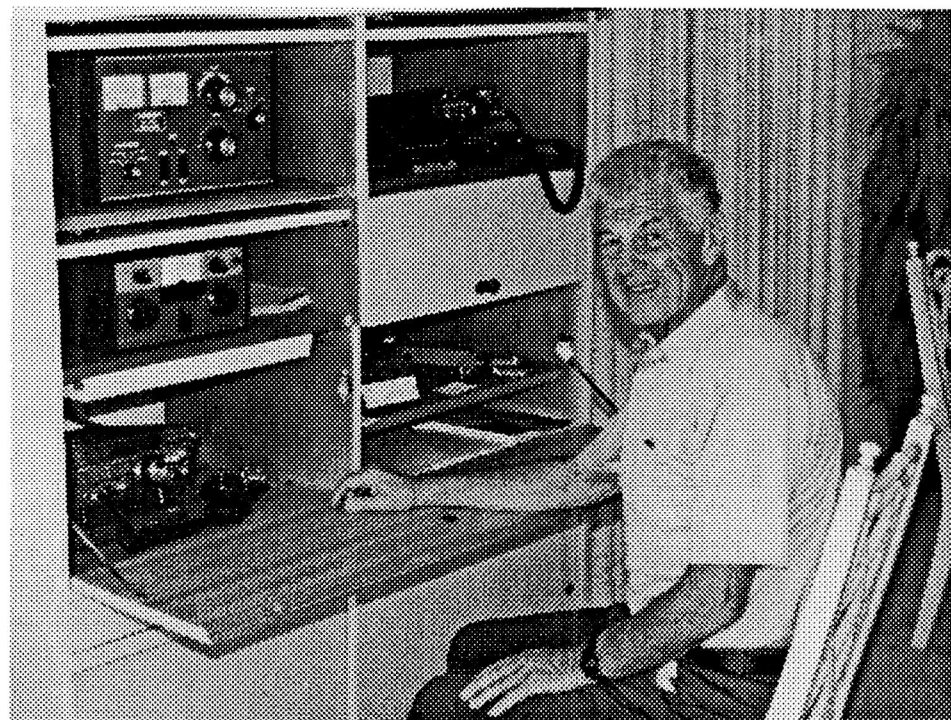
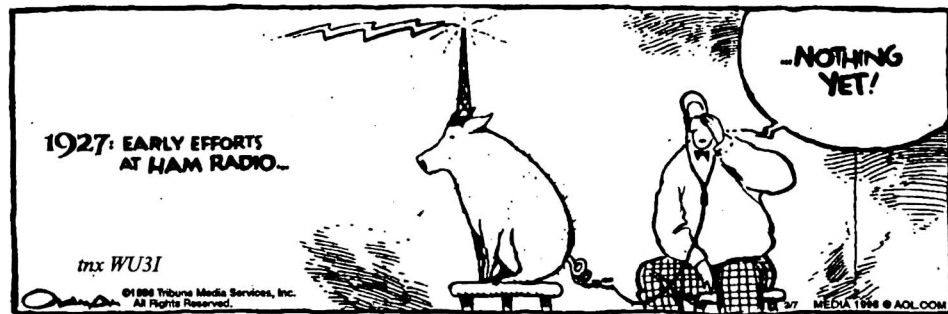
CoreStates bike race will be held on June 9, 1996. The repeater will be 145.27, see Bill - N3FVI or Charlie - AA3EP to sign up.

KB3IV - ED, reports that we need more help at W3TKQ. Any day, any time, so you if can spare a few hours give him a call. Once again, put something back into the hobby!

Under old business, we need someone or a group to do an audit on the books of the club. If anyone can help PLEASE contact Ed - KB3IV.

The meeting ran very long and a lot got done.

A big THANK YOU to our host K2BN and his better half Alice (who can really cook) for the use of their home for our mid-month meeting, which included a tour of the shack and fine antique radio collection. ☺



Hal was born on September 21, 1918, and died after a long struggle with cancer on May 7, 1996. He is survived by his wife Marian, WA3YJR, son Mark, K3TPS, a daughter, stepdaughter, sister, and seven grandchildren.

In his youth, he was an Eagle Scout, and was active in football and swimming while in high school. He later participated in amateur boxing while in the army, and during his lifetime had made more than 200 scuba dives.

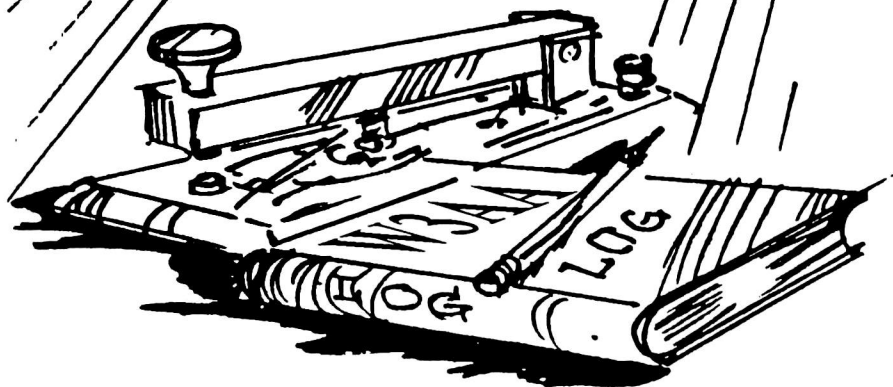
When in his late 40s, he founded the Keystone Transformer Company, which is currently headed by the third Fox generation, grandson Jeremy, in Pennsburg, Pa.

Previously W3ETA, Hal was an amateur for over 60 years, and, in addition to his membership in PMRC, was a member of the Frankford Radio Club and the Quarter Century Wireless Association (Colonial and Pelican chapters).

Hal always loved high places such as the top floor at Place One in Plymouth Meeting, and the top (12th) floor apartment directly on the beach in Madeira Beach, Florida. We're sure that he's finally found the best antenna location of all, but we'll certainly miss hearing his cheery greeting "W3 Able Able."

PHIL-MONT

# Silent Key



**W3AA**  
**Harold Fox**

# THE W 3 T K Q

The International Voice of The Franklin Institute Science Museum

## REPORT

The TS450SAT is still out for repairs, and will be sold as soon as repaired.

I need some suggestions for a replacement rig with 6 meters. We have a 6 meter beam donated. I just have to go and take it down (that with all the antennas I have to put up this summer). I think I have a 6 meter vertical lined up for \$40. Any help will be appreciated in the installation. We will also need a rotator to handle the load of a 6 meter 3 element beam. The CAMP-INS are over for the season. Thanks to all who have helped out. I will let you know when they start up again. The 70 watt 2 meter rig is still out at Hamtronics; we hope it will be done soon.

Joe, K3VXU has suffered a stroke, and should be home from the hospital by press time. This will leave Rollie alone on Mondays for awhile. If you can join Rollie on Mondays, even on an alternate schedule, it would be appreciated.

After reviewing the sign-in book for operators, I have noted the need of personnel on Saturdays in the AM. The afternoons seem well covered, but the mornings are sometimes unfilled. If you can fill this time please stop down.

**Always Remember W3TKQ Is Your Station. Stop Down And Operate!**

—Steve Hoch, WU3I

Internet: <http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3tkq.html>

## A Quickie Microphone Fix

K4FQU

Is your favorite mike sitting on the bench because it no longer works, or have you a bunch of them that no longer work? Here's the easiest way to fix them without spending a fortune. I have used this method for as long as the electret mike element has been on the market.

This element is under \$2 at Radio Shack, and will replace all those old crystal, dynamic and ceramic units very quickly. Imagination is the key element here. The sketch is very clear and will work every time. The audio quality is excellent, better than most dynamic or crystal mikes. The audio output is very low, however there is a preamp built in which requires anywhere from 2 to 10 volts DC. Most modern rigs have power coming out the mike jack, check your manual. So if you want to save or modernize that old mike give this method a try. Everything can be purchased at Radio Shack for less than \$5.

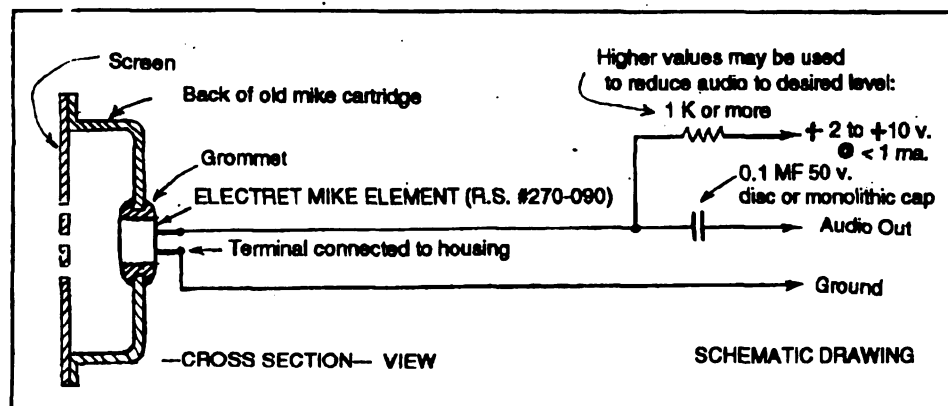
*The Fort Myers ARC "Modulator"*

## FCC ESTABLISHES FAMILY RADIO SERVICE

The Federal Communications Commission amended Part 95 of its rules May 10 to establish a new, unlicensed personal radio service, to be called the Family Radio Service. This service was created in response to a petition filed by the Radio Shack Division of Tandy Corporation, requesting that the Commission establish a new radio service aimed at providing small groups with an affordable and convenient means of direct, short range (up to one-half mile), two-way voice communication. FRS radios would use 14 channels in the 462 to 468-MHz band. Transceivers would have to be FCC-certified.

The Commission suggests the FRS could be used by hunters, campers, hikers, bicyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts to keep in contact with one another during outings. It could also be used by parents to keep in touch with children playing in the neighborhood, or families or friends to keep in contact with one another while at shopping malls, sporting events, amusement parks and similar locations.--FCC

*The ARRL Letter*



## And From our Northern Reporter:

THE SAGA OF OUR \$11 AUTOMOBILE—by George King, Newtown

In 1939 my buddy Al Jahraus, and fellow engineering freshman, and I living at 272 Mason Hall at Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) bought our first automobile. As it turns out a couple of economics Juniors in the same dormitory had a 1929 4 door Chevrolet which they ran over a bump and coasted up to a stop light in East Lansing. It would go no further even though the engine ran fine. They pushed it to a campus parking lot and there it sat not being able to figure out what could be done - an questionable disaster with a possible transmission problem, very costly, ready for the junk yard. My pal and I looked it over - checked the oil, engine, tires, and clean interior. It started fine with about 40,000 miles on it, no blue smoke but would not move when put in gear. With appropriate engineering inspection we discovered the engine was not connected to the back end. We speculated the universal coupling had separated when they hit the bump. Repairs would not be that difficult. We dickered the econ students down from their asking price of \$25 dollars and bought the fine machine for \$11 as is. This was a serious strain on our thread bare wallets of \$5.50 each accumulated through many hours of fifteen cent an hour bagging groceries at a local food market. We loosened the back spring shackles, got a big log and gave it a hard rap on the rear differential and lo - the front end now connected to the back end. Well, we ran that machine for about 8,000 miles over the next two years giving it tender loving mechanical care with excellent slow speed transportation to the local gin mills and around campus. Because of the war we had to leave school and sold it to a couple of students for \$30 dollars, a fantastic capital gain which we did not report to the IRS. Statute of limitations now allows us to come clean. We heard later that the buyers hot rodded the car and blew a rod through the crankcase and it went on to its blue heaven in the clouds. To this day, and running several business since, a \$11 expenditure requires a Board of Directors "approval" which in these days my friends remind me is a bit close but a good reminder of the value of hard earned money. ☺



## The Southern Reporter

Gil Gilpin, W3SRU

Lee County Florida EC, and former PMRC President

Fort Myers was honored to be selected as one of the few cities in Florida to have a Hurricane Hunter plane on public exhibit. Fortunately, Jack-W3IIM and Jinny-W3IIN were down here, and were able to go on the aircraft.

We learned a number of interesting facts about the use of these aircraft. When not being used for hurricane chasing, they are extensively used for environmental monitoring and testing. Operations in this capacity are conducted worldwide. The plane that we visited was presently equipped for environmental monitoring, and will be converted equipment-wise for hurricane service in June. Included on board are a multitude of computers and electronic instrumentation.

Also on display during the event were the Lee County Emergency Management communications bus and our RACES/ARES Bronco and tower trailer. These were the same vehicles that I operated in while up in Panama City following Hurricane Opal. A funny story concerning the communications bus: During one of my first operations in the annual Florida Hurricane Tests, I was operating portable at a simulated recovery center when I was handed a message to send to the EOC saying that SRU was fully operational. I thought that was pretty nice of them! I later found out that the bus is called "Special Response Unit" and is designated SRU on the government radios. I can no longer use my call W3SRU on these operations!

Lee County probably now has the best Civil Defense related communications systems of any county in Florida. These in-

clude an 800 MHz trunked repeater system with 3 tower sites; a portable 800 MHz repeater system; a satellite communications system (SATCOM) having 4 voice and 2 digital channels for state-wide communications; portable satellite telephone units; a complete Amateur Radio station in the EOC containing 2-meter voice and packet BBS equipment and an HF radio; a RACES 2M, 440 and HF mobile station with a 30 ft. tower trailer; a communications bus containing both government and amateur radio communications equipment, and used as a mobile command center.

Additionally, I am installing an ARES "Mini-EOC" in the Lee County Red Cross Chapter Headquarters. Equipment there includes: 2-meter voice and packet radios; a 100 Watt VHF-low band radio on the Red Cross county 47 MHz repeater system, and National 47.42 MHz frequencies; an SGC-2000 HF 150W SSB radio with continuous 1.8 to 30 MHz transmit and receive capability, for National Red Cross HF communications and ham band use; an 800 MHz radio on the county trunked repeater system.

The Lee County Emergency Management Operations Director, RACES Radio Officer and I have set a new tack for amateur radio emergency communications wherein ham radio operators not only operate on the ham bands, but also communicate using the 800 MHz, VHF and satellite communications equipment, etc. Hams are also being trained to assist in other operations within the EOC. This is in agreement with the excellent article on this subject in the February 1996 issue of QST. ☺

## 133<sup>RD</sup> MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS MAY

9 candidates took 17 elements  
4 new amateurs plus 2 upgrades

VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman

Bill Hempsey, N3DCM; Wally Newell, K3JJO; Jim McCloskey, KE3OP;  
Vince Braxton, K3SNZ; Jeff Kerber, KE3UV; Bob Freer, W3YLT

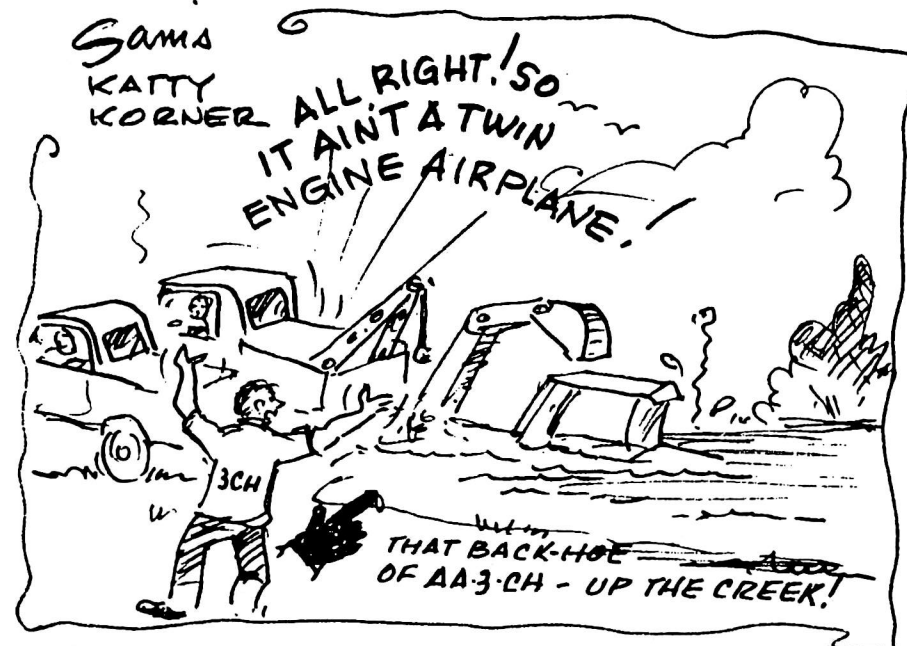
AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST  
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE  
SCIENCE MUSEUM

For Information Call ND3Q at  
(215) 448-1139 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.



# A Dream Come True

Greg Malone, N3FSC

I have been a ham for 9 years being first licensed in 1987. I have also been a 10-10 member for that long, but not active until the past two years.

In June 1993 I visited the Beautiful Island of Bermuda with my wife, Bonnie, WB3GBN. Much to my dismay I learned that I could not operate HF (or VHF) as I was only licensed as a Tech Plus, and the Radio Society of Bermuda requires that you be at least a General or above before being able to obtain a reciprocal license to operate in Bermuda.

We left after a great week, and I was determined to do two things: 1. Upgrade my license as soon as possible. 2. Return to the Island of Bermuda, not only to visit but, to operate HF as N3FSC/VP9.

I returned home, and with the constant prodding of a good friend, Joe Pearlstein, NU3Y of the Frankford Radio Club, I finally put my mind to it, and upgraded to General, and a few short weeks after that I received my Advanced ticket. I am currently working on my Extra Class ticket, and hope to have it soon.

My friend NU3Y and I were talking a few months ago about our different experiences in Bermuda, and how much each of us missed the island, and could not wait until we were able to make a return trip. Well, I was listening to an Oldies station in Philadelphia, while I was working one night at my job as a Police Officer, and they were

giving away a cruise for two to Bermuda.

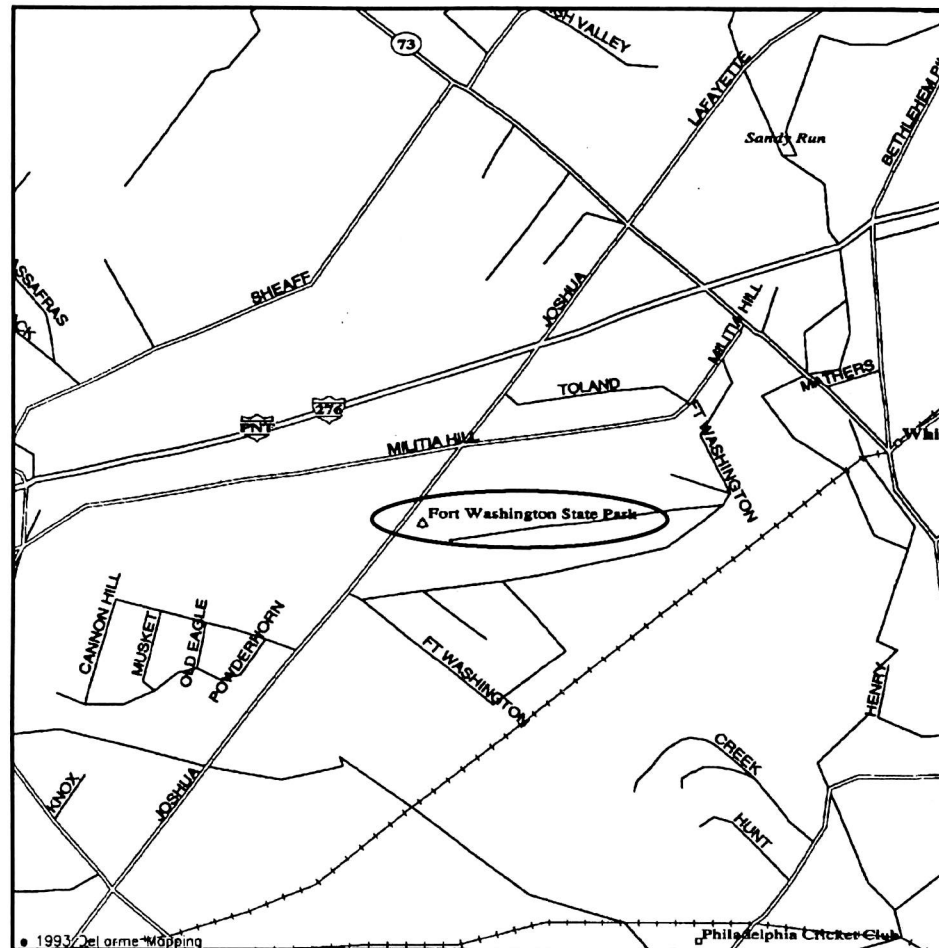
All you had to do was to be the 8th caller when they played a certain record, and you would qualify to be a finalist at the end of the week in the grand prize drawing. I heard the record in question and went to a phone booth and called several times but the line was busy. I tried one more time, and if it was still busy I was not going to bother again. Much to my surprise the phone rang,



Greg Malone, N3FSC operating as N3FSC/VP9 from the Island of Bermuda

and as luck would have it, I was the 8th caller and now eligible for the grand prize which was to be picked on the air several days later at the end of the week.

My wife Bonnie and I were on the way to the Jersey Shore to our summer home, as [we] usually did on the weekends when I did not have to work. We were listening to the radio station waiting for the announcement when all of a sudden they announced my name as the grand prize winner for a cruise for two to Bermuda. We were so



## GOODIES

Commodore 64 computer  
Model 1541 disk drive  
Model 1702 video monitor  
AEA PK-64 TNC ..... \$50

W3ZPP

### NEWSLETTERS EXCHANGED

Anne Arundel Radio Club (Maryland)  
Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society (BRATS)  
Cherryville Repeater Association (New Jersey)  
Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club (DLARC)  
Delmont Radio Club  
Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (Florida)  
Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club (MARC)  
Penn Wireless Association  
R F Hill Amateur Radio Club  
Sanibel Amateur Radio Emergency Unit (Florida)  
Tampa Amateur Radio Club  
Warminster Amateur Radio Club  
Worldradio Magazine

Exchanges with additional parties are welcomed.

## FIELD DAY

## Directions to Fort Washington State Park

The Field Day site this year is located at Fort Washington State Park which is situated in Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County. We will be meeting at the site at 10 am on Saturday, June 22. Talk-in will be on the repeater, 147.03.

Fort Washington State Park is very convenient to several major roads. These directions should provide enough information to get most everyone there—on-time!

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike, exit at interchange #26, Fort Washington. Continue straight out of the toll booths, and onto Pennsylvania Avenue. Take Pennsylvania to the end, just past the Mercedes dealership. At this light, where the road “Ts”, turn left onto Bethlehem Pike. Proceed south on Bethlehem Pike to the light at PA Rt. 73/Skipack Pike and Bethlehem Pike. This intersection is approximately 1 mile from the car dealership. Look for the Bent Elbow Tavern just before the light at Rt 73. At this light, make an extreme right onto Rt 73. Travel on Rt 73 to the first street on the left, Militia Hill Road. Left onto Militia Hill Road, 100 yards, to the park entrance. Follow the access road into the park and up the hill. When you come to the crest, look for signs on the right indicating the “Organized Group Camping” area. Continue up the hill, travel to the end of the parking area. You’re here!

From Philadelphia, take Stenton Avenue north to the 9200 block. Here, it intersects with Paper Mill Road and Bethlehem Pike. Continue straight at the intersection, as if you were continuing on Stenton, but here, it becomes Bethlehem Pike. Travel on Bethlehem Pike, through Erdenheim and then through Flourtown (3 miles). After passing a McDonald’s at the outer edge of Flourtown, continue to the 3rd light, which is the intersection of PA Rt 73. Turn left onto 73, to the first street on the left, Militia Hill Road. Left into the Park.

Traveling from Conshohocken or Roxborough, take Ridge Pike to Rt 202 North. 202 to PA Rt 73. Right onto 73. 73, Skipack Pike, to Militia Hill Road, turn right. Left into Park.

## PADDLERAMA

It’s crunch time. We have 4 weeks until I leave for the campground, and we still need volunteers to man the checkpoints. The boy and girl scouts will be counting on us to keep an eye on them. If you have an ht, or mobile with PL capabilities, I need to hear from you! We need help on Saturday and

Sunday; you can have an early or late checkpoint. You can stay for dinner in the campground or you can “cut and run” for home or elsewhere. All info will be provided including directions and data as when to expect the canoes at your location. Contact WU3I Steve 215-535-8061.

excited that I almost had an accident, and had to pull off the side of the highway to regain our composure.

It was great returning to Bermuda to see the Island, but the *best* part of this time was that I was able to operate HF, and sign N3FSC/VP9, a dream that I did not know would ever come true.

The bands were not in real good shape, but I did make over 50 contacts in the short time that I had available to operate, and would like to thank all who answered my CQs and [who] QSLed.

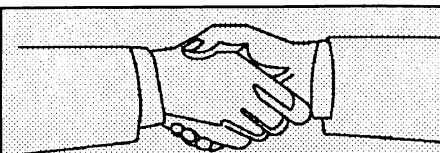
Many thanks to the Hams in Bermuda that I spoke to for making me feel at home, especially Alan, VP9AD for all of his help. “10-10 International News” via WA3INW

## E-mail received at W3TKQ

Hello. You may have heard me recently on the 147.030 MHz repeater. I just wanted to introduce myself and tell you that I enjoy talking to kids (I am 11) and other visitors at TFI. If you ever have anyone who wants a contact on 2M, please call me on the 147.030 repeater (but I am not always on). I also run a school club on Wednesdays at 1635 UTC with the call KB3BLZ (this is the CLUB’S CALL not mine), and we use the Warminster repeater (147.090). You are welcome to call us on there, and I’m sure both parties would have a lot of fun. The club’s radio is broken right now, so don’t try this until I let you know it’s fixed). I may also page you frequently to get information on Space Station Mir (which I am trying to contact) and other various things.

Hopefully I can get down to the station on Sat. and see you. I also wanted to know, just out of curiosity, what do you do all day down at that station? It must be fun though, WHATEVER YOU DO!! :) So again, I just wanted to introduce myself and say hi. TNX,

Benji Jack, N3VYA  
Trustee of KB3BLZ and CEO of the Rydal School Amateur Radio Club  
Benji123Z@aol.com



## NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

CALL: N3VYA  
NAME: Benjamin Jack  
HANDLE: Benji  
CLASS: Technician  
ADDRESS: 1643 Biddle Road  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
HOME PHONE: 215-947-4713  
BUSINESS PHONE:  
OCCUPATION: Student  
INTERESTS:

CALL: N3XEK  
NAME: (Mr.) Isao Kobayashi  
HANDLE: Isao  
CLASS: Technician  
ADDRESS: 1324 Locust St. #1209  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
HOME PHONE: 215-546-2091  
BUSINESS PHONE:  
OCCUPATION: Graduate Student  
INTERESTS: Membership

CALL: N3XKW  
NAME: Stefanie Serafin  
HANDLE: Steff  
CLASS: Technician  
ADDRESS: 417 Brandywine Lane  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
HOME PHONE: 610-265-5994  
BUSINESS PHONE:  
OCCUPATION: Student  
INTERESTS:

1996

JUNE

1996

| SUNDAY                                                                                               | MONDAY    | TUESDAY                                         | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                  | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                  | FRIDAY                           | SATURDAY                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b><br>2M NCS KB3IV<br>10M NCS W3HFX<br>75M NCS W3PWG                                           | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>CODE PRACTICE<br>On Summer Vacation | <b>5</b><br>GENERAL MEETING<br>at<br><b>The Franklin Institute</b><br>Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.<br>Meeting starts at 7:30. | <b>6</b><br>LICENSE EXAMS<br>at<br><b>The Franklin Institute</b><br>Registration begins at 6:00<br>Doors close at 6:30 p.m. <i>sharp!</i> | <b>7</b>                         | <b>8</b><br><br><i>Hurricane Season Begins</i> <b>1</b> |
| <b>9</b><br>2M NCS N3FTY<br>10M NCS W3HFX<br>75M NCS W3STW<br><br><i>CoreStates Bike Race</i>        | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b>                                       | <b>12</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>13</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>14</b><br><br><i>Flag Day</i> | <b>15</b>                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>16</b> ●<br>2M NCS WA3NSP<br>10M NCS W3HFX<br>75M NCS AA3CH<br><br><i>Fathers' Day</i>            | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br><br><i>Olympic Torch Run</i>       | <b>19</b><br>DIRECTORS'<br>MEETING at<br>W3BBB's                                                                           | <b>20</b><br><br><i>Summer Solstice</i>                                                                                                   | <b>21</b>                        | <b>22</b><br><br><i>Field Day &amp; Paddlerama</i>                                                                                         |
| <b>23</b><br>2M NCS N3OWM<br>10M NCS W3HFX<br>75M NCS KB3IV<br><br><i>Field Day &amp; Paddlerama</i> | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b>                                       | <b>26</b><br>W3TKQ<br>OPERATORS' NET<br>8 PM                                                                               | <b>27</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>28</b>                        | <b>29</b>                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>30</b> ○<br>2M NCS W3BBB<br>10M NCS W3HFX<br>75M NCS W3BBB                                        |           |                                                 |                                                                                                                            | Be nice to your<br>kids; they'll be the<br>ones choosing your<br>nursing home.                                                            |                                  |                                                       |